

## Instead, Use One Table of Function Pointers per Type

What if, **instead**,

- **for each type**
- **we create a table** (a `struct`<sup>+</sup>)
- filled **with function pointers**?

We only need **one such table per type**, NOT one table per variable.

**And one pointer per variable**—to the variable's type's table of function pointers.

<sup>+</sup>An array of pointers, but the functions have different signatures.

25

## Virtual Function Table Pointer Refers to Table for Type

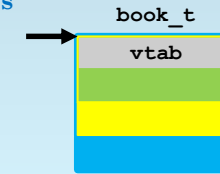
Let's **call the table pointer `vtab`**.<sup>+</sup>

And place it **at the start of the structure**, so that we can always find it.

**Every book's `vtab` points to the table for books.**

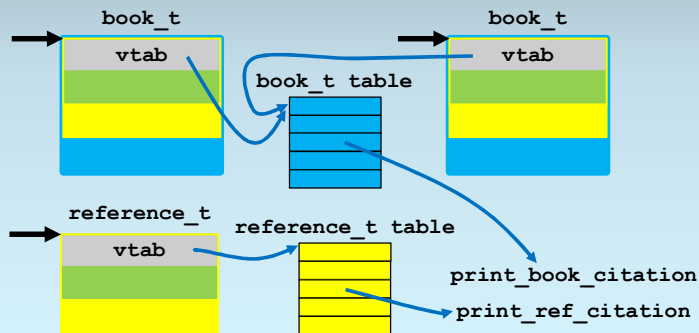
**Every reference's `vtab` points to the table for references.**

<sup>+</sup>For "virtual function table."



26

## Calling a Virtual Function Requires Two Memory Reads



27

## A Virtual Function Call Costs Extra Memory Reads

**Two loads followed by a call** (JSRR, for example), instead of just a call.

**That's the more significant cost.**

You may want to try converting our bibliography printing code into **LC-3** assuming that `vtab` is at the start of each structure (before the `double_list_t`). Choose some non-zero index for `print_citation` in the table to make it interesting (the index must be a constant, of course).

28